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Senate

The Senate met at 9 a.m., and was called to order by the Honorable TED STEVENS, a Senator from the State of Alaska

The PRESIDING OFFICER. We will now have a prayer from Father Paul E. Lavin from St. Joseph's Church on Capitol Hill.

PRAYER

The guest Chaplain, the Reverend Paul E. Lavin, offered the following prayer:

Let us join millions of our fellow citizens and millions of others in faith communities around the world who today honor the memory of Joseph, spouse of Mary, Foster father and faithful guardian of Jesus. We listen to the words of Scripture which he surely found a support in his life, from the Book of Wisdom (10:10-11).

Wisdom, when the just man was in flight, guided him in direct ways,

Showed him the Kingdom of God and gave him the knowledge of holy things:

She prospered him in his labors and made abundant the fruit of his

Let us pray:

Good and gracious God, give the men and women of this Senate and give their staffs the inspiration to listen carefully to Your word here, in their homes, and in their own faith communities; support them when they experience doubts and fears; and embolden them to live their lives in response to Your word, and ultimately to be obedient to Your word, as was Joseph. Guide these Senators by Your wisdom, support them by Your power, and keep them faithful to all that is true, glory and praise to You forever and ever. Amen.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President protempore [Mr. Thurmond].

The assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,

PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE, Washington, DC, March 19, 1996.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, section 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable TED STEVENS, a Senator from the State of Alaska, to perform the duties of the Chair.

STROM THURMOND,

President pro tempore.

Mr. STEVENS thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The acting majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. LOTT. This morning the Senate will immediately resume consideration of H.R. 3019, the omnibus appropriations bill. Under a previous order, there will be a total of 3 hours of controlled debate on the Boxer amendment No. 3508 and the Coats amendment No. 3513, both amendments regarding the subject of abortion. Following the expiration or yielding back of that time, the Senate will resume consideration of the Murkowski amendment No. 3525 regarding Greens Creek.

The Senate will stand in recess between the hours of 12:30 p.m., and 2:15 p.m., in order to accommodate the respective party luncheons. When the Senate reconvenes at 2:15 p.m., there is expected to be a series of rollcall votes

on or in relation to amendments and passage of the omnibus appropriations bill, H.R. 3019. Senators are also reminded that at some point during today's session the Senate will be voting on the motion to invoke cloture on the motion to proceed to Senate Resolution 227 regarding authority for the Special Committee To Investigate the Whitewater Matter; passage of S. 942, the small business regulatory reform bill, and possibly a vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the product liability conference report unless a unanimous consent can be reached to the contrary.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

BALANCED BUDGET DOWNPAYMENT ACT, II

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Chair lays before the Senate H.R. 3019, which the clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 3019) making appropriations for fiscal year 1996 to make a further downpayment toward a balanced budget, and for other purposes.

The Senate resumed the consideration of the bill.

Pending:

Hatfield modified amendment No. 3466, in the nature of a substitute.

Lautenberg amendment No. 3482 (to amendment No. 3466), to provide funding for programs necessary to maintain essential environmental protection.

Boxer-Murray amendment No. 3508 (to amendment No. 3466), to permit the District of Columbia to use local funds for certain activities.

Gorton amendment No. 3496 (to amendment No. 3466), to designate the "Jonathan

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

